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Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, January 10, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

In a moment of silence, let us remember Senator ALAN SIMPSON and his family in the loss of his beloved mother. Two great mothers have gone from us recently.

*Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God * * *.—I John 4:7.*

Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the beautiful differences in the human family—for its varied shapes and sizes, its features and colors, its abilities and talents. We thank Thee for Democrats and Republicans and Independents. We thank Thee for liberals and conservatives, for moderates and radicals. Deliver us from the forces which would destroy our unity by eliminating our diversity.

Help us to appreciate the glorious tapestry of life—the harmonious symphony which we are together. Help us to respect and love each other, to listen and understand each other. Grant us the grace to work together in the strategic mix that is the United States of America.

We ask this in the name of the Lord of Life and History. Amen.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning

business not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with the time until 10:30 a.m. under the control of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG], or his designee.

The Senator from Idaho is now recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, thank you very much. Following the 10:30 special order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, the unfunded mandates bill, and rollcall votes are to be expected throughout the day, and a late night session should be anticipated, according to our leader.

(Mrs. HUTCHISON assumed the chair.)

THE NEED FOR A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have requested and gained an hour of morning business under a special order today to discuss the beginning of what I believe will be one of the most historic debates that the Congress of the United States will engage itself in and most certainly that the 104th Congress will become involved in. That debate will begin in the House today and will begin in the Senate early next week.

What I am talking about is an issue that many of us for a good number of years have believed is the most important issue to bring our Government back on track and to focus it on the priorities that the American people want us to focus on and that, of course, is the issue of our fiscal matters and our spending under a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

In November of this year, as for a good many years, the American people have spoken very loudly about their desire to see this Congress, and all past

Congresses, move in a fiscally responsible way. Our failure to do so over the last good many decades has produced our Nation's largest Federal debt of now 4.6-plus trillions of dollars. It has produced an annualized deficit of nearly \$200 billion and an interest on debt—now the second-largest payment in our Federal budget—of nearly \$300 billion a year.

I think the American people spoke with fright and alarm this year, that this Congress and its political leaders seem to be unsensitive to the continued mounting of a Federal debt and the potential impact that debt will have on future generations.

Before the President pro tempore opened the Senate this morning, I asked him if he would address us on this issue briefly before he resumed his duties as chairman of a very important committee in the Senate. Certainly, for all of his political life, Senator THURMOND has led this issue, has offered the American people and the Congress of the United States the foresight to focus on the issue of balancing the Federal budget, and he was the first, some 30-plus years ago, to introduce the concept of a constitutional amendment for a federally balanced budget.

At this time, I yield to Senator THURMOND such time as he might consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. THURMOND. Madam President, I am very pleased to say a few words on behalf of the constitutional amendment to balance the budget. I have been in the Senate 40 years now and for 36 of those years I have favored a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. I worked with Senator Harry Byrd, Sr., Senator Styles Bridges, Harry Byrd, Jr., and many others in the past, in an effort to get this amendment adopted.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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